

## **Wastewater Management Division makes science interesting for young student on Science Fair Project.**

Wastewater Management Division is always looking into making science interesting for young audiences. David Trauger, Senior Laboratory Technician for the Wastewater



Management Division Laboratory Services, worked with and mentored Mikayla Jundt, a student from Alta Sierra Intermediate School in the Clovis Unified School District, on a Science Fair project on Monday, January 22, 2007. Her project, "H<sub>2</sub>O Purification with Solar - Can I cost effectively purify with solar distillation?" addressed salinity issues on water quality and used solar energy to recover water for future uses.

David discussed how the electrical conductivity (EC) and the total dissolved solids (TDS) are measures of salinity. He showed her how to measure high salinity waters she collected from a collection pond on a Kings County farm and he guided her through the test procedures and the measurements. She also brought some of the distilled water she had collected with her solar still to determine how much purification occurred. It was quite successful by reducing the EC from approximately 23,800 micromhos/cm to 120 micromhos/cm and a reduction of TDS from approximately 23,000 mg/L to < 20 mg/L.

Mikayla received recognition for her project and moved to the State Science Fair finals where she received "Honorable Mention."